IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as the following:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An image processor provided with a function for recognizing a specific image in an input image data, comprising:

a recognition unit that recognizes whether the specific image to be prohibited from outputting exists in the input image data; and

a determination unit that determines whether the input image data ~~includes a~~ ~~predetermined characteristic~~ meets a condition indicating the input image data includes the specific image, and controls the recognition unit not to recognize the specific image if ~~the~~ ~~predetermined characteristic is not included in the input image data~~ the input image data meets the condition; and

an output image data generation unit that outputs an output image data corresponding to the input image data which is not recognized by the recognition unit.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): An image processor according to Claim 2, wherein:

the determination unit determines whether a raster image in the input image data ~~has the~~ ~~predetermined characteristic~~ meets the condition or not.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An image processor according to Claim 3, wherein:

the determination unit determines whether plural raster images are continuous or not if

the plural raster images exist in the input image data and determines whether or not the raster

images determined as being continuous ~~have the predetermined characteristic~~ meet the condition

as one raster image.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An image processor according to ~~Claim 3~~ Claim 2, wherein:

the determination unit ~~uses the size of an output raster image as the predetermined~~

~~characteristic for making the determination.~~ determines whether the size of an output raster

image to be included in the output image data is different from a size specified in the condition,

and controls the recognition unit not to recognize the specific image if the size of the raster

image is different from the size specified in the condition.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An image processor according to ~~Claim 3~~ Claim 2, wherein:

the determination unit ~~uses the resolution of a raster image as the predetermined~~

~~characteristic for making the determination.~~ determines whether the resolution of a raster image

included in the input image data is lower than a resolution specified in the condition, and

controls the recognition unit not to recognize the specific image if the resolution of the raster

image is lower than the resolution specified in the condition.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An image processor according to ~~Claim 3~~ Claim 2, wherein:

the determination unit ~~uses the number of colors included in a raster image as the~~ ~~predetermined characteristic for making the determination.~~ determines whether a number of colors included in the input image data is smaller than a predetermined number of colors, and controls the recognition unit not to recognize the specific image if the number of colors included in the input image data is smaller than the predetermined number of colors.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An image processor according to ~~Claim 3~~ Claim 2, wherein: the determination unit ~~uses a compression format of a raster image as the predetermined~~ ~~characteristic for making the determination.~~ determines whether the input image data includes a raster image being compressed using an irreversible compression method, and controls the recognition unit not to recognize the specific image if the input image data includes the raster image being compressed using the irreversible compression method.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An image processor provided with a function for recognizing a specific image in an input image data, comprising:

a recognition unit that recognizes whether the specific image to be prohibited from outputting exists in the input image data; ~~and~~

a determination unit that controls the recognition unit to execute recognition processing

for the input image data at a lower resolution than ~~the~~ an output resolution of an output image

data corresponding to the input image data, ~~determines the result~~ and controls the recognition

unit not to execute a further recognition processing for the input image data at a higher resolution

if ~~the~~ a possibility of including the specific image in the input image data is higher than a

predetermined ~~level.~~ level; and

an output image data generation unit that generates the output image data with the output

resolution, and outputs the output image data.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An image processor according to Claim 2, ~~further comprising:~~

~~an output image data generation unit that generates output image data based upon the~~

~~image data and outputs the output image data,~~ wherein:

the output image data generation unit temporarily stops ~~the~~ a generation or the output of

the output image data if the determination unit determines that recognition processing by the

recognition unit is required.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An image processor according to Claim 2, ~~further comprising:~~

~~an output image data generation unit that generates output image data based upon the image data and outputs the output image data,~~ wherein:

the output image data generation unit temporarily stops ~~the~~ a̲ generation or the output of the output image data if the determination unit determines that ~~the~~ a̲ possibility of including ~~a~~ the̲ specific image in the input̲ image data is higher than a predetermined level as a result of recognition processing by the recognition unit.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): An image processor according to Claim 2, further comprising:

~~an output image data generation unit that generates output image data per predetermined unit based upon the image data and outputs the output image data,~~ wherein:

the determination unit executes processing for making determination on image data per predetermined unit or in a predetermined unit being processed; and

the output image data generation unit changes the quantity of the output image data if the determination unit determines, as a result of recognition processing by the recognition unit, that ~~the~~ a̲ possibility of including the specific image in the input̲ image data is higher than a predetermined level.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An image processor according to Claim 10, wherein:

the output image data generation unit stops ~~the~~ a generation or the output of the output

image data if the recognition unit recognizes the existence of the specific image.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An image processor according to Claim 10, wherein:

the output image data generation unit outputs fixed data as the output image data if the

recognition unit recognizes ~~the~~ an existence of the specific image.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): An image processor according to Claim 10, wherein:

the output image data generation unit outputs a character string telling that ~~the~~ an

existence of the specific image is recognized as the output image data if the recognition unit

recognizes the existence of the specific image.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): An image processor according to Claim 2, further comprising:

an output image data generation unit that generates output image data based upon the image data

and outputs the output image data, wherein:

the output image data generation unit stops ~~the~~ a generation or the output of the output

image data if the recognition unit recognizes the existence of the specific image.

Claim 17 (Original): An image processor according to Claim 10, wherein:

the determination unit determines a mode for generating the output image data by the output image data generation unit and commands the recognition unit to execute recognition processing only if the mode is a predetermined mode.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): An image processor according to Claim 2, wherein:

the determination unit executes determination processing in units of page.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): An image processor provided with a function for recognizing a specific image in an input image data, comprising:

a recognition unit that recognizes whether the specific image to be prohibited from outputting exists in the input image data; and

a determination unit that determines a mode for outputting the an output image data corresponding to the input image data, wherein:

the determination unit and controls the recognition unit not to execute the recognition processing if the mode is not a predetermined mode. mode indicating the specific image does not exist in the input image data; and

an output image data generation unit that outputs the output image data without the recognition processing.

Claims 20 and 21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium that stores a program for

commanding a computer for image processing to execute the functions of:

    <u>receiving an input image data;</u>

    recognizing whether a specific image <u>to be prohibited from outputting</u> exists in the input

image data;

    determining<u>, by a recognition unit,</u> whether the input image data ~~includes a~~

~~predetermined characteristic~~ <u>meets a condition indicating the input image data includes the</u>

<u>specific image;</u> ~~and controls~~

    <u>controlling</u> the recognition unit not to recognize the specific image if ~~the predetermined~~

~~characteristic is not included in the input image data~~ <u>the input image data meets the condition;</u>

<u>and</u>

    <u>outputting an output image data corresponding to the input image data which is not</u>

<u>recognized by the recognition unit.</u>

Claims 23-25 (Canceled).

Claim 26 (New): The image processor according to Claim 2, wherein:

the determination unit determines whether the input image data meets the condition specifying at least one of; the size of an output raster image to be included in the output image data, the resolution of a raster image included in the input image data, the number of colors included in the input image data, and a compression format of a raster image included in the input image data.

Claim 27 (New): The image processor according to Claim 2, wherein:

the input image data includes a PDL;

the output image data generation unit converts the PDL to output the output image data; and

the determination unit determines, before the output image data generation unit starts to convert the PDL, whether the input image data meets the condition.

Claim 28 (New): An image processing method, comprising:

receiving an input image data;

recognizing whether a specific image to be prohibited from outputting exists in the input image data;

determining, by a recognition unit, whether the input image data meets a condition

indicating the input image data includes the specific image;

controlling the recognition unit not to recognize the specific image if the input image

data meets the condition; and

outputting an output image data corresponding to the input image data which is not

recognized by the recognition unit.